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19 June 1984

NOTE TO: Vice Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM: [redacted] 25X1
Assistant NIO for Western Europe

SUBJECT: Antonov Case

1. Attached are two reports on the Antonov case that lend insight into the Soviet angle and the legal aspects of case. While estimates of the trial's progress have been wrong to date, there is a chance that the case will be tried during the November election period.

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

Attachment:
Sofia 2265

[redacted] 25X1

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

MSGNO 12 (STXK) N1A *18/06/84* *15:54*
ZCZC 21:51:05Z (ST)

CONFIDENTIAL

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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9458
INFO RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 1181
RUDKRB/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 5865
RUFHEB/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 2595
RUDKAR/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 5891
RUDKDA/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 4691
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 5331
RUDKRP/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 4548
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 1145
RUDKRW/AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY 4375
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ROME ALSO FOR EMBASSY VATICAN
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PTER, BU, IT
SUBJECT: ANTONOV TO RETURN TO HOUSE ARREST
REF: SOFIA 1761
1. ACCORDING TO ITALIAN AMBASSADOR BATTISTINI (STRICTLY PROTECT), SERGEI ANTONOV WILL BE RELEASED TO HOUSE ARREST IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE SAID THAT PROSECUTOR ALBANO'S PREVIOUS DECISION TO RETURN ANTONOV TO PRISON FROM HOUSE ARREST WAS FOR PURELY SECURITY REASONS. ANTONOV'S NEW HOUSE ARREST WILL NOT BE IN HIS OLD APARTMENT, BUT IN ANOTHER ONE. BATTISTINI SAID THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL OTHER DIPLOMATS (HINTING EAST BLOC) LIVING IN THE BUILDING WHERE ANTONOV WAS PREVIOUSLY UNDER HOUSE ARREST. ALBANO WORRIED THAT SOMEONE WITH DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY WOULD BE ABLE TO GET ANTONOV THERE. THE NEW APARTMENT WILL OFFER THE ITALIAN POLICE BETTER CONTROL OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

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2. BATTISTINI SAID HE HAD READ THE ALBANO REPORT AND HAD TWO COMMENTS: FIRST WAS THAT NO "POPULAR" COURT WAS GOING TO CONVICT AND SENTENCE AGCA TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT BASED ON THE EVIDENCE SUMMARIZED IN THE REPORT. EVERYTHING REVOLVED AROUND AGCA WITH NO INDEPENDENT CORROBORATING SOURCES. SECOND, BATTISTINI WAS CONCERNED AT THE REFERENCES TO THE SOVIET UNION AND THE EFFECT ON BULGARIAN-ITALIAN RELATIONS OF THE RELEASE OF THE REPORT WAS GOING TO HAVE.

3. BATTISTINI SAID THAT GROMYKO HAD BROUGHT UP THE ANTONOV CASE WITH ANDREOTTI IN MOSCOW, EVIDENTLY PRESSURING THE ITALIANS TO DROP THE CASE. IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL ARGUMENTS, GROMYK ADDED THAT IF THE BULGARIAN SECURITY SERVICES HAD BEEN INVOLVED, MOSCOW WOULD HAVE KNOWN--AND DIDN'T.

4. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR HERE TOLD BATTISTINI THAT IT WAS ILLOGICAL TO IMAGINE THAT THE USSR WANTED TO SEE THE POPE ASSASSINATED. THIS WOULD HAVE PRODUCED TURMOIL AND CIVIL WAR IN POLAND, WHICH WAS HARDLY A SOVIET DESIDERATUM. BESIDES, EVENTS HAVE PROVEN THAT GLEMP AND THE POLISH POPE ARE ASSETS IN TRYING TO KEEP THE LID ON POLAND.

5. THE BULGARIANS HAVE NOT SPECIFICALLY PROTESTED THE LEAK OF THE ALBANO REPORT, BATTISTINI SAID. HOWEVER, ANTONOV'S ITALIAN LAWYERS HAVE COMPLAINED THAT THE LEAK WAS INTENTIONAL AND VIOLATES THEIR CLIENT'S RIGHTS.
BLAKE

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